

Quarterly Issues Report
WLFI-TV
Third Quarter, 2010

Agriculture and Business

An annual downtown Lafayette festival, that raises money for a number of area businesses, had to be cancelled because of severe weather during the third quarter. A we highlighted several businesses in downtown Logansport. A larger number of Hispanic and Latino owners are setting up shop in that part of town. We also told the story of an unusual theft in Logansport. Semi tires are stolen right off their axles at an area dealership.

(7.1.10 – Story aired during 11 pm news - Duration: 1:20)

A National Guard team specializing in agribusiness is training at Purdue University this week. Today's training was in constructing high tunnels that allow for year-round crop production. The team will be deployed in October to train Afghan extension agents about new planting methods. Command Sergeant Dan Kerrigan says the agents he trains will travel from village to village, explaining the benefits of the technology. The agribusiness team will be the third team sent to Afghanistan to work on this specific operation.

(7.19.10 – Story aired during 11 pm news – Duration 2:00)

Severe weather interrupted one Greater Lafayette festival over the weekend. Many Downtown businesses came up short with the abrupt end to the usually lucrative Dancing in the Streets event. According to organizer Doug Anderson, one of the main goals is to get people into downtown businesses.

Alexandra Diero reports.

(7.29.10 – Story aired during morning broadcast – Duration 2:00)

The city of Logansport is seeing many new changes in its downtown store fronts. Downtown businesses are being filled again by many more hispanic and latino business owners. Alexandra Deiro has reaction to the shift.

(7.30.10 – Story aired during 11 pm broadcast - Duration :25)

Purdue University announces the new head of its Department of Agronomy. Joseph M Anderson, an adjunct professor at the university and research molecular biologist for the U-S Department of Agriculture, will take over starting October first. Anderson has been at Purdue since 1994. He has worked with the U-S-D-A's Agricultural Research Service, based at Purdue, since starting at the university. Anderson worked with the crop production and the pest control research unit.

(8.6.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast - Duration :25)

This hot, steamy, rainy summer may not be good for us -- but the Department of Agriculture says it is doing wonders for Indiana's crops. The agency reports that 63 percent of corn and 64 percent of soybeans were rated good to excellent. That same reports shows 96 percent of corn has silked -- compared to an 87 percent five year average. As for soybeans, 87 percent of that crop has bloomed -- that five year average is 78 percent.

(8.22.10 – Story aired during Sunday evening broadcast – Duration :50)

Purdue students seem to be good for business in West Lafayette. With the university back in session students are boosting business on campus stores. Manager of Von's bead shop Jerry Trudel (Tra-dell) says during the summer the store will see more local customers..but during the school year patrons usually flow from the university.

He says Von's pace of business always picks up around the start of the school year...and this year is no exception.

(8.26.10 – Story aired during 6 pm broadcast – Duration 1:50)

26 truck tires were stolen right off the axles of the semis at a dealership in Logansport. Aaron Leedy spoke with the detective in the case today. Right now there are only a couple of tips at this time, but it's not enough to solve the case at this point. The Cass County Sheriff's Department is asking for anyone with information to come forward.

(8.27.10 – Story aired during morning news broadcast – Duration :45)

After three years in the Lafayette community, a bank is expanding its services. Centier Bank celebrated the grand opening of its new full service retail branch in downtown Lafayette yesterday. Before, Centier had just a business branch in Lafayette. The President and C-E-O says Centier has proven itself to business clients in Greater Lafayette - that's why it expanded.

(8.29.10 – Story aired during morning news broadcast – Duration :50)

It was in the 90's and the sun was bearing down, what a perfect time for a chili contest! At least that's what one Lafayette business owner thought. Don Kirby, owner of D-T Kirby's restaurant in downtown Lafayette held the restaurant's first ever chili cook-off yesterday.

Over 20 restaurants and chili chefs from around the area heated up the Lafayette Theater, while chili lovers got to sample a wide arrange of chili recipes. One contestant says chili is all about feeling good.

(9.23.10 – Story aired during noon broadcast – Duration :30)

Purdue University students have the opportunity to get hands on experience at a new science research facility. Dow Agro Sciences dedicated its new research and greenhouse in the Purdue Research Park yesterday afternoon. About 30 scientists and research assistants will work in the facilities. Those researchers will be able to collaborate with Purdue Agriculture and Science faculty to help provide students internships or work in the Dow AgroScience labs.

(9.24.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast – Duration 2:10)

More than a year after Alorica, Incorporated, promised to add hundreds of jobs to the local economy, the company says it's ready to do just that. Lafayette site director Phil Sanchez says these will be full-time, permanent positions, with benefits. Ryla, an Alorica company, will be adding 600 jobs here in Lafayette...where workers will oversee customer service for a Fortune 50 company.

(9.25.10 – Story aired during Saturday news broadcasts – Duration 1:55)

Some Lafayette residents are cashing in on Purdue games. Those with homes near Ross-Ade stadium often open their lawns for tailgaters and game goers...for a fee. And you might be surprised where that money ends up. Alexandra Deiro reports on this game day tradition.

(9.29.10 – Story aired during 11 o'clock broadcast – Duration 1:45)

Today is National Coffee Day, and while some celebrated with their favorite beverage, others are worried about where the increased cost is leading the industry. NewsChannel 18's Joe LePage shows us how the price bump is affecting the local economy.

CRIME

A man was caught for dealing drugs from his house while on house arrest, and a marijuana operation is broken up in Tippecanoe County. And, in a case that gained national attention, a man is charged with the murder of a Crawfordsville woman.

(7.12.10 – Story aired during 5 pm news – Duration :35)

A man is behind bars for damaging some property and then fleeing from police Sunday. West Lafayette and Lafayette police say they got multiple reports of a man breaking out car windows and slashing tires. After getting a description from victims, police found 25-year-old Michael Manion (MAN-yun) in his vehicle near Soldier's Home Road.

(7.22.10 – Story aired during Morning News – Duration :45)

A Tippecanoe County man could face up to three felony charges...after Indiana State Police busted an indoor and outdoor marijuana growing operation at his home. ISP Sergeant Kim Riley says troopers found 18 marijuana plants growing inside, 18 plants growing outside, a pound of processed marijuana, three guns and about two-thousand dollars worth of equipment at this house at 82-35 Timber Lane.

(7.23.10 – Story aired during 11 pm news – Duration 2:20)

30-year-old Wesley Kelly pleaded guilty today in the Tippecanoe County Circuit Court. He now faces decades of prison time. Under the terms of this plea agreement, Kelly will face 50 to 60 years in prison when he's sentenced for murder next month. But for cooperating with law enforcement, the court will drop two other charges...a felony for being a habitual offender and a misdemeanor charge for battery.

(8.6.10 – Story aired during noon broadcast – Duration :35)

Murder charges have been filed against the Lafayette man accused of murdering a 62-year-old Crawfordsville woman. 37-year-old Rob Shute appeared in Montgomery County Circuit Court yesterday for his arraignment in the murder of Brenda Stuckey. According to court documents, Shute originally denied playing any role in Stuckey's death when he first talked to police, but after investigators used a search warrant to find blood stains in his car, he later admitted to the crime.

(8.19.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast – Duration :30)

Serving time is taking on a whole new meaning at one Indiana jail. Inmates serving time at the Cass County Jail for a non-violent crime, with a good disciplinary record and pass a physical can volunteer to do work on the jail's farm. The more time they put in, the more time they can get off their sentence. After planting, growing and harvesting the crops, the inmates prepare them in the kitchen. A local farmer donated three acres of farmland for the project.

(8.26.10 – Story aired during morning news broadcast – Duration 1:50)

26 truck tires were stolen right off the axles of the semis at a dealership in Logansport. Detectives only have a couple of tips right now, but it's not enough to solve the case. As Aaron Leedy reports, the Cass County Sheriff's Department is asking the public for anyone with information to come forward.

(9.3.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast - :40)

A woman is arrested after threatening a Wal Mart employee with a box cutter. According to West Lafayette Police, Soudabeh (SEW-duh-bay) Omoumian (OH-mow-ee-an) had planned to steal several items from the Wal-Mart on the west side. What she didn't plan on was getting caught in the bathroom as she was cutting the tags off with a box-cutter she found in the store.

(9.7.10 – Story aired during morning broadcast – Duration :55)

A coroner's report confirms the cause of death of 10-year-old Savannah Ross, the little girl we told you about yesterday. She was indeed killed from a gunshot wound to the pelvis. Crawfordsville police say Ross was shot by her mother's boyfriend, 27 year old Steven Bixler. Police say they're still investigating what happened Saturday afternoon. Neighbors and community members say they're shocked to hear about what happened.

(9.24.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast – Duration :50)

A West Lafayette man on house arrest is now facing additional charges for allegedly dealing drugs out of his home. According to Home Detention Coordinator Aron Thompson, 24-year-old Jacob Hall was on house arrest for Operating a vehicle While Intoxicated. Community Corrections staff then went to Hall's apartment for an unscheduled inspection, that's when they say they found a pound of marijuana in a backpack sitting on the floor.

DIVERSITY

The Greater Lafayette area continues to foster diversity community wide. Church members came together to raise money and underprivileged kids in the area, and NFL legends Eric Dickerson and Richard Dent joined Indiana native Fuzzy Zoeller to help out the YMCA.

(7.11.10 – Story aired during Sunday broadcasts – Duration 1:10)

15-hundred church members from around the country came together to help send underprivileged children to summer camp. The New Apostolic Church National Youth Choir performed a benefit concert at Purdue's Elliott Hall of Music Sunday night...featuring 200 singers and an orchestra. "Heritage with Soul," included a mixture of contemporary songs with traditional hymns. It was part of a National Youth Conference weekend.

(7.15.10 – Story aired during Noon broadcast – Duration :45)

More than 26-hundred YMCA's across the country, including Lafayette's, will get a new look...but the mission is staying the same. The organization will now call itself simply the "Y." The transformation is complete with a new logo, in a variety of colors. The goal to build a strong body, mind and spirit remains. CEO Paul Cramer says it was time for a change.

(8.5.10 – Story aired during 11 pm broadcast – Duration 1:20)

Lafayette Urban Ministry's annual kid's camp is underway. Photojournalist Jason Thompson takes us inside the event.

(8.10.10 – Story aired during noon broadcast – Duration :30)

Ivy Tech and the YMCA in Lafayette announced a recreation partnership yesterday. The Lafayette campus of Ivy Tech and the YMCA are giving students the chance to take advantage of YMCA activities along with allowing them to participate in intramural sports and recreational activities. For about a hundred dollars per semester, students will have the chance to join the Y. Chancellor David Bathe says by this time next year, they expect hundreds of students to take advantage of the opportunity.

(8.21.10 – Story aired during Saturday broadcasts – Duration :50)

Pottery wheels were spinning in Lafayette as the tenth annual YWCA potter's sale took place. The YWCA allows potters to sell their wares at the pottery sale as a thank you for the large gift of 500 bowls they donate yearly. The donation is usually given in the spring every year and benefits victims of domestic violence....along with other programs supported by the YWCA. Organizer Scott Frankenberger (Frank-Burger) says the potters really enjoy helping out the YWCA causes.

(9.7.10 – Story aired during 11 pm sports segment – Duration :30)

Golfing great and Indiana native Fuzzy Zoeller, along with pro football greats Eric Dickerson and Richard Dent, have been in Tippecanoe County Tuesday as part of the Lafayette Family YMCA's Golf "Fore" Youth event. Zoeller, who won the 1979 Masters and the 1984 U-S Open, was his typically gracious self. As were Dickerson, the former Indianapolis Colt and Pro Football Hall of Famer, and Dent, the Chicago Bears' great defensive end who won M-V-P honors in Super Bowl XX (Twenty).

(9.15.10 – Story aired during 6 pm broadcast – Duration :55)

The power of friendship is celebrated community-wide. The YWCA's fall luncheon series begins on September 22nd with local women discussing friendships. In October, Angela Jamison (jame-eh-son), one of the women featured in the best-seller "The Girls from Ames" be in town for several events. This girl's night out event raises money for the YWCA Women's Cancer Program.

EDUCATION

Money concerns continued at area school corporations continued to capture our headlines again. A man making national news passed through our area on his way to try and make it on Oprah. He was trying to raise money for his hometown school. And a fraternity on Purdue University's West Lafayette campus was put on probation for alcohol abuse.

(7.19.10 – Story aired during morning broadcast – Duration :35)

Thousands of Indiana children could fall behind in educational milestones because the state doesn't pay for preschool. But state officials say they don't have the money. The National Institute for Early Education Research says only 20 percent of Indiana preschool-age children attend public pre-kindergarten programs.

(7.26.10 – Story aired during 11 pm broadcast – Duration 1:05)

One man walking close to one thousand miles made a stop today in Lafayette. Eric Beba Bee-Ba is on his way from Savannah Georgia to Chicago Illinois. His goal is to reach the Oprah show in order to ask her for her help in funding his charity. The charity funds would go towards supporting education and agricultural programs in Beba's home county of Burkina Faso.

(7.29.10 - Story aired during 11 pm broadcast – Duration :35)

A fraternity on Purdue's campus has been put on probation. University Officials announced Delta Sigma Phi is on probation after violating university regulations and Interfraternity Council Risk Management policies. A university investigation showed Delta Sigma Phi hosted an unregistered party in April where alcohol was served to minors. In order to maintain university recognition, the fraternity may not host or co-sponsor functions at which alcohol is served until October 31st.

(8.17.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast – Duration 1:15)

Classes haven't started yet at Purdue University, but thousands of students are already back on campus. Kristin Maiorano spoke with campus police...on how they're keeping up with the increased traffic, new tonight at five.

Actually, traffic was one of the major concerns Purdue Police had for the start of the school year. Police Chief John Cox says it was a top priority to make sure construction projects were wrapped up so roads on campus could be open in time for student move-in.

(8.30.10 – Story aired during 6 pm broadcast – Duration 1:40)

According to a recently released study some students at Purdue are not making the final grade. The study released this month by the Education Trust, a national education advocacy group, found Purdue has a large gap between graduation rates for hispanic students as opposed to their non-hispanic counter parts.

(9.13.10 – Story aired during morning broadcast – Duration :50)

As one area school district gets bigger, its budget gets smaller. Tippecanoe School Corporation superintendent Scott Hanback says the district is growing, but not like it did ten years ago. Then it grew by 200 or more students every year. Last school year, the TSC gained about 20 students. Hanback says the district will add between 40 to 60 students in 2010.

(9.21.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast – 2:05)

Bullying is moving from the playground to the keyboard. It's a new trend on the rise. It could be cause for concern and something parents should be aware of. Experts and parents say cyber bullying exists here...and parents should be on the look out for red flags.

(9.22.10 – Story aired during noon broadcast – Duration :30)

A group of students marched up the steps of Hovde Hall and into the president's office hoping to convince her to enact the standards of the DREAM act. They read a letter calling on Cordova to extend in-state tuition to all students holding an Indiana diploma or G.E.D. Students supporting the bill say its passage is important for all immigrant students seeking a chance at higher education.

HEALTHCARE

Promoting physical fitness and a closer look into how the economy affects medical choices were big stories in the fourth quarter. A local triathlon involving area Middle school students continues to grow in popularity and another place to work out opened its doors in August.

(7.26.10 - Story aired during 5 pm broadcast – Duration 1:45)

It's been months since Saint Elizabeth Regional Health moved from Home Hospital to the new Saint Elizabeth East location...but one department is still being housed in the old location on South Street. There's a sign at the corner of South Street and 26th that states, "Home Hospital is closed for all medical services." Well that's not exactly true.

(8.25.10 – Story aired during 11 pm broadcast – Duration 1:05)

A triathlon promoting wellness in Monticello continues to grow year after year. More than fifty students from Delphi and Twin Lakes participated in the event. The triathlon was made up of a 200 yard swim, a 4 and a half mile bike ride and a two mile run. Triathlon director Theresa Traver says participating in athletic events like this one can help kids be successful in the classroom.

(8.28.10 - Story aired during morning broadcast – Duration :45)

Just because summer is winding down doesn't mean your work out schedule has to as well. The Edge personal training center in Lafayette is held its first ever fall open house this weekend. Community members joined in on free classes like Zumba, pilates, and yoga in the parking lot. Local health vendors sponsored booths. Edge personal trainer Brandon Little says the event is designed helps people become aware.

(9.24.10 – Story aired during 6 pm broadcast – Duration 1:50)

More people are choosing whether or not it is absolutely necessary before they go to the doctor, thanks to the economy.

(9.28.10 – Story aired during 11 pm broadcast – Duration 3:00)

A court date has been set for Attica residents taking Kraft Foods Global to court. The lawsuit alleges the company knew about hazardous cancer-causing chemicals at its site, formerly owned by P-R Mallory and Company, contaminating some water and the air in some resident's homes. After almost a year and half of waiting, a judge sets a trial date.

(7.1.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast – Duration 1:25)

Two moped accidents within 24 hours of each other is raising safety concerns about that particular form of transportation. Moped riders told us there are various reasons as to why they use that type of bike. Many say motorist can be inconsiderate when it comes to sharing the road. But, wearing protective gear can save riders from extensive bodily harm should an accident occur.

(7.19.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast – Duration :20)

A gas leak in Brookston cut power to some parts of the town today. White County Emergency Management Director Rose Brady says the gas leak is near the intersection of State Roads 43 and 18. The traffic light at that intersection is out, and Brady says one or two homes were also evacuated as a precaution.

(8.26.10 – Story aired during 5 pm broadcast – Duration :55)

115 cars were stopped in a sobriety check point in Lafayette. The Lafayette, West Lafayette and Purdue police departments worked together to make those stops last night. According to police, one person was arrested for an OWI one person was arrested as a Habitual Traffic Violation -- those two were both put in jail. Six others were cited for other violations, and have to go to court.

(9.2.10 – Story aired during 6 pm broadcast – Duration 1:20)

Community Schools of Frankfort says a committee has been formed regarding the one-mile no bus zone. NewsChannel 18 told you last week how children living within a mile of their school cannot ride a bus. Tiffanie Dismore has more on an alternative the corporation is considering.

(9.28.10 – Story aired during morning broadcast – Duration 1:35)

Purdue police say they stopped about 100 people last week in an effort to increase safety for drivers, pedestrians and bikers on campus. Campus officers say they spent an extra 23 hours focusing traffic safety. As Kristin Maiorano tells us...the efforts seem to be making a difference.